

SEP 08 2005

*Office of Legislative Affairs*U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528**Homeland
Security**

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2107

Dear Representative Markey:

On behalf of Secretary Chertoff, thank you for your letter of August 18, 2005, regarding the recent media coverage of proposed changes to the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) prohibited items list.

As a part of his effort to review and outline the path ahead for the Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Chertoff has requested suggestions for improving the overall effectiveness of the transportation security network. In response to that request, TSA received numerous suggestions such as those you read about in recent news media reports. TSA is in the process of evaluating those suggestions as it moves forward in implementing a risk-based approach to transportation security. The evaluation will include discussions with appropriate stakeholders, including members of Congress, the Association of Flight Attendants, Air Line Pilots Association, and others, before making any changes to the current procedures.

DHS appreciates your concerns and ensures they are considered prior to taking any action.

I appreciate your interest in the Department of Homeland Security, and I look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If I may be of further assistance, please contact the Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-4412.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Turner".

Pamela J. Turner
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs